

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 7286

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: OVIP
SUBJECT: VISIT OF PIERO OTTONE

1. PIERO OTTONE, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OF MONDADORI PUBLISHINGNG
HOUSE AND FORMER EDITOR OF CORRIERE DELLA SERA WILL BE IN
U.S. FOR A WEEK BEGINNING APRIL 24, ATTENDING BILDBERG
CONFERENCE AT PRINCETON. HE ASKED ME TO ARRANGE APPOINT-
MENTS WITH ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS SUCH AS ASST. SEC. VEST
AND NSC MEMBER ROBERT HUNTER.

2. IN RECENT MONTHS OTTONE HAS BEEN INCREASINGLY
OUTSPOKEN OF IMMEDIATE COMMUNIST ENTRY INTO
EMERGENCY GOVERNMENT AND INCREASINGLY STRIDENT CRITIC OF
U.S. POLICIES. MANY REGARD HIM AS BOTH OPPORTUNISTIC AND
UNTRUSTWORTHY. I, THEREFORE, MADE NO PROMISES ABOUT
AVAILABILITY OF SENIOR U.S. OFFICIALS AND FEEL RECEIVING
OTTONE AT ITALIAN DESK LEVEL SUFFICIENT GIVEN PRESSURES
ON VEST AND HUNTER. GOOD DESK-LEVEL ATTENTION IS FULLY INDICATED,
HOWEVER, BY CERTAINTY THAT OTTONE WILL REMAIN PROMINENT
FIGURE IN ITALIAN JOURNALISM,AND OBVIOUSLY NEEDS
EDUCATING.GARDNER

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